FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 JULY 1984

Lebanon

All roads between East and West Beirut were open on 10 July following the decision by the committee of relatives of kidnapped and missing persons to transfer their sit-in from the crossing points to the mufti's office, Beirut radio reported. The committee decided to end its blockade of the crossing points after holding contacts with President Amin al-Jumayyil, who promised that its demand for the release of missing persons will be given top priority during the forthcoming Cabinet meeting. Air traffic to and from the airport was resumed after being suspended because of the closure of the airport road, according to the radio.

In another security development, gunmen from the "As-Sadr Brigades" kidnapped the head of the Libyan People's Bureau in West Beirut and subsequently warned other Libyan diplomats to leave the city in an anonymous telephone call to the bureau, Beirut radio reported. The kidnapped diplomat was later released and taken to the Lebanese-Syrian border, according to informed sources cited by AFP. Meanwhile, the Army's 6th Brigade was compelled to withdraw from one area of West Beirut because of the presence of "Hezbollah" gunmen on the streets, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon asserted.

As for Lebanon's relations with Syria, Beirut radio reported that government ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt will visit Damascus on 12 July to discuss political and security issues with the Syrian leaders. Lebanese sources in Damascus cited by Radio Monte Carlo linked their visit with moves to reopen the Beirut-Damascus highway.

PLO Affairs

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Jordan after a "positive" meeting with King Husayn in an atmosphere of "brotherliness and understanding," Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. The results of Palestinian-Jordanian moves at all levels were discussed. While in Jordan, 'Arafat disclosed that Palestinian factions are expected to meet on 10 July to sign a political and organizational agreement, the radio added. In additional remarks reported by the Amman paper *JORDAN TIMES*, 'Arafat said that talks between the PLO's Faruq Qaddumi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad were "successful" and that Syrian-Palestinian relations are "improving." Along these lines, efforts are being made to organize a meeting in Geneva between 'Arafat and Syrian Vice President Rif'at al-Asad, according to sources on the latter's staff cited by AFP.

Meanwhile, the meeting in Damascus between the National Alliance and the Democratic Alliance continued in a "volatile" fashion, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The dialogue between the two groups may be suspended until further notice unless new developments arise, the radio added.

In a related development, the Fatah representative in Kuwait affirmed to the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* that Damascus has placed Fatah "dissident" Nimr Salih under house arrest because of differences with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Jordan

During the first round of talks between King Husayn and French President Francois Mitterrand, Husayn explained the various threats and developments in the region, Amman television reported. Jordanian and French viewpoints were "identical" on the issues discussed, the television added. In his banquet speech broadcast by Amman television, Husayn pointed out the problems of the Iran-Iraq war and Israeli "aggression." He praised France's policies and called for the reactivation of the UN Security Council's role, including negotiations based on Resolution 242. In his reply broadcast by the television, Mitterrand praised Jordan's economic development and said that French policy is based on presence, cooperation, and peace. He pointed out the importance for states to live within secure borders, the right of all peoples to decide their future, and his regrets that the Iran-Iraq war is continuing.

Kuwait-USSR

After his first round of talks in Moscow with USSR Defense Minister Dmitriy Ustinov, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah confirmed that the Soviet leadership is willing to consider all of Kuwait's requests for various types of weapons, Kuwait radio reported citing KUNA.

Iran

A new clandestine radio, Radio of the Toiling People of Iran, broadcast on 7 July a recent Tudeh Party Central Committee statement condemning the Iranian regime's policies concerning the war with Iraq and repression inside the country. The radio announced a mailing address identical with the pro-Soviet clandestine Radio Iran Courier (Peyk-e Iran), last heard in 1976.

Afghanistan

In the past week Afghan Communications Minister Mohamman Aslam Watanjar has been shot and wounded by Defense Minister Abdol Qader, and Finance Minister Abdol Wakil may have been assassinated, AFP reported, citing Western diplomatic sources.

Afghan President Babrak Karmal, meanwhile, has left for the USSR in order to undergo a "general physical check-up," Kabul radio reported.

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Reports on SARC Meeting in Male, Maldives

Indian, Pakistani Ministers Arrive

BK100128 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] The foreign ministers of India and Pakistan — Mr Narasimha Rao and Mr Yaqub Khan — today had an exchange of views mainly on international developments and issues likely to come up at the meeting of the South Asian Regional Cooperation [SARC] countries in Male. They spent 4 hours together aboard the special Indian Airlines Boeing which took them to Maldives for the SARC ministerial meeting opening tomorrow. Mr Yaqub Khan flew into Delhi this morning and joined Mr Narasimha Rao for the flight to Male, the capital of Maldives.

The All-India Radio special correspondent, Manohar Takroo, reports from Male that Mr Yaqub Khan emphasized that interference in India's internal affairs does not serve Pakistan's own interest. He referred to last week's hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane and said the incident, though unfortunate, showed how the two countries can cooperate in tackling common problems with goodwill.

Mr Narasimha Rao and Mr Yaqub Khan were received at the Male airport by the Maldives foreign minister, Mr Fathulla Jameel. In a brief airport statement, Mr Rao expressed happiness at the progress of the South Asian regional cooperation. He said Maldives is an island of peace, and both India and Maldives are determined that the Indian Ocean should become a zone of peace. The foreign ministers of seven countries — Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and India — are meeting tomorrow at the beach resort of Villingili to review the progress made so far and draw up a program of action for the future.

Later speaking at a dinner hosted for the foreign ministers of the SARC, Mr Narasimha Rao emphasized the need for the South Asian countries to work together in the present times of fear and distrust. Mr Rao recalled the integrated program of action launched by them when they met in New Delhi in August last. Mr Rao said though much of work (?which was) visualized has happened, a lot still remains to be done. He expressed the hope that tomorrow's meeting will further consolidate cooperation in the region.

Yaqub Khan Speaks on Arrival

BK100122 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has now arrived at Male to lead the Pakistani delegation at the South Asian Regional Cooperation meeting beginning tomorrow. In a statement at the airport he said that the process of regional cooperation has proved its usefulness to achieve the desired objectives through collective efforts of the member countries. We have come to attend the session with a positive perception and the spirit to sincerely implement the ideology of regional cooperation.

Referring to progress in South Asian regional cooperation, he said that we are justified in expressing satisfaction over the pace of progress achieved so far in mutually beneficial cooperation among South Asian countries.

Earlier on arrival at Male, the Maldives external affairs minister, Fathulla Jameel, received the Pakistan foreign minister. Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao accompanied him. The two foreign ministers, while flying from New Delhi to the Maldives, exchanged views on bilateral issues faced by the two countries. They also considered regional cooperation.

AFP: Communications, Finance Ministers Shot

BK101142 Hong Kong AFP in English 1127 GMT 10 Jul 84

[Text] Islamabad, July 10 (AFP) — One Afghan minister was wounded by another, and a third minister has been reported assassinated in Kabul in the past week, Western diplomatic sources said here today. According to the sources, Afghan Communications Minister Aslam Watanjar was shot and wounded by Defence Minister Major General Abdol Qader, while Finance Minister Abdol Wakil may have been assassinated. The defence minister was described as the architect of communist rule in Afghanistan.

No details of the incidents were given.

The sources, who also reported an increase in daylight killings in the Afghan capital since the end of Moslem holy month of Ramadan, said that guerrillas had gunned down two Army officers and kidnapped two ruling party officials over the same period.

Meanwhile, Afghan resistance sources reported that guerrillas killed an influential Pushtun leader who had been "very important" for the regime near the Soviet border.

Haji Azeem, 45, was leader of 2,000 Pathan families and had established a 2,000-man anti-guerrilla force in Faryab Province to support the Soviet-backed regime of Babrak Karmal. Haji Azeem was killed along with five supporters when guerrillas "with help from his guards" trapped him at Jalai, just five kilometers (three miles) from the Soviet border. Three mujahedeen also died in the ambush, which took place June 26, the sources said.

In the north of the Panjsher Valley, 2,000 Soviets soldiers have died to date in the latest offensive which began April 20, according to the Western diplomats. They said that some 200 civilians died in Soviet bombings in Paktia, where a cantonment was under rebel seige for two months. Fighting was also reported in Herat and Ghazni, and the situation in Afghanistan's second city, Qandahar, was described as unfavourable for the regime.

New Finance Minister Appointed

LD100525 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1245 GMT 7 Jul 84

[Text] Kabul, 7 Jul (BAKHTAR) — In accordance with the proposal of the DRA Council of Ministers and with the approval of the Revolutionary Council Presidium, and in order to improve affairs and financial discipline, Dr Mohammad Kabir has been appointed as the DRA minister of finance.

Karmal Departs for USSR

LD091256 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1230 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, left Kabul today for the Soviet Union.

Babrak Karmal was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Soltan Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers; members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat; members of the Revolutionary Council Presidium; members of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers; heads of departments of the Central Committee; president of the Islamic Affairs Department and head of the high council of the DRA ulema and clergy; some members of the Executive Committee of the Central Council of the DRA National Fatherland Front; and the USSR ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Health Check-up Said Behind Trip

LD091639 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, left for the USSR this morning by a special aircraft for general physical check-ups.

General Secretary's Predeparture Activities Noted

Karmal Chairs Planning Session

LD071755 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Jul 84

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, on Thursday, 15 Saratan [5 July], in the Delkosha Palace of the Revolutionary Council, chaired a plenary session attended by the members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee, several ministers, heads of the PDPA Central Committee departments, zonal leaders, a number of secretaries of the provincial party committees, and a number of governors.

At this session, the circumstances surrounding the implementation of the overall plan for the first quarter of 1363 [beginning 20 March] was broadly assessed. Various reports on the issue from various zones were heard.

In his comprehensive speech, Babrak Karmal gave specific instructions on the implementation of the overall plan for 1363 which will be implemented in the country's provinces by party and government organs.

Receives Departing Hungarian Envoy

AU051355 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 3 Jul 84 p 8

[Text] Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, received for a farewell visit Dezso Kiss, our country's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, who has since returned home from Kabul.

White Paper Released on Golden Temple Action

BK100821 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 10 Jul 84

[Text] The white paper on Punjab released a short while ago says government has reason to believe that the terrorists in Punjab were receiving active support from certain foreign sources. It underlines the need for utmost vigilance to thwart the designs of those who wish to exploit our internal situation for their own ends. The white paper points out that subversive activities of groups inside of the Golden Temple complex had assumed menacing proportions in the context of India's security environment. The influence of external forces with deep-rooted interests in the disintegration of India was becoming evident. The government was convinced that this challenge to the security, unity, and integrity of the country could not be met by the normal law and order agency at the disposal of state. It was under these circumstances the decision was taken to call in the Army.

The white paper says that the Army is still engaged in the process of recovers of arms and apprehending terrorists who are spread all over the state. The white paper makes it clear that the action which the government had to take in Punjab was neither against Sikhs nor the Sikh religion. It was against terrorism and insurgency. The Sikhs are the well integrated part of the Indian nation and are second to none in their contribution in achieving and defending the country's freedom and building India's economic strength. The Sikh community stands firm along with the rest of the nation in its resolve to preserve and strengthen the unity and integrity of the country.

The white paper emphasizes that the government has always kept in view the wider national perspective in dealing with the agitation in Punjab for the last 2 years. It reiterates government's commitment to its stand that a lasting solution should be found to the Punjab tangle through the democratic process of discussion. For this, an atmosphere of peace, mutual trust, and accommodation is necessary. In any [word indistinct] there has to be give and take, and above all a commitment to the basic concept that interests of the country always come above those of the state or group.

The white paper points out that events in Punjab have raised some vital issues like is it right for places of worship, which are revered by millions, should be used as arsenals? [as heard] It also asks whether it is right to transform such places into sanctuaries for criminal and subversive elements. How do we prevent the secular foundation of our republic from being eroded?

The white paper says it is inconceivable that the Akali Dal and the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temple Management] Committee [SGPC] were not aware of the open desecration and misuse of the holy precinct of the Golden Temple. But no voice was raised against this by them. Can SGPC, which has the legal responsibility for the management of these religious shrines, plead ignorance and absolve itself from the responsibility for their misuse, the white paper asks? It says the Golden Temple and other gurdwaras were used to provide total immunity to criminals and to those who worked to disrupt the unity of the country.

Factors Behind Agitation Viewed

BK100952 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Jul 84

[Excerpts] The white paper on Punjab released today says government has reason to believe that the terrorists in Punjab were receiving active support from certain foreign sources.

The white paper points out that occurrences in Punjab cannot be divorced from the wider international context. Powerful forces are at work to undermine India's political and economic strength. And since it is a border state with a dynamic record of agricultural and industrial development, [it] would be an obvious target for subversion. Repeated external aggression and other pressures having failed to break the unity of India. Attempts are now being made to cause internal disruption, pressing religion into service.

The white paper says other questions being posed are how sophisticated weapons in such large quantities could get inside the Golden Temple and other gurdwaras? Was the government not aware that such arsenals were being built up inside the Golden Temple and other gurdwaras? It is also being asked whether it was a failure of intelligence. Answering these questions, the white paper points out that intelligence on the quantity and type of arms acquired by the terrorists as well as the intentions and strategy of action was broadly correct. The arms and ammunitions were smuggled into the Golden Temple and other gurdwaras in kar seva [voluntary community service] and other vehicles which used to carry foodstuff and other materials. They were also smuggled in by terrorists mixing [in with] the crowds of pilgrims in the temple. However, the ground information was weak. For instance, while the government knew about the plans of terrorists to sabotage railway tracks and stage dramatic action against railway stations, exact locations and the particular gangs to be deployed for attacks were not known. While serious acts of sabotage were detected, actual attacks on small and isolated flag stations could not be prevented.

As for the supply of arms, the white paper reveals that initially the terrorists got them through surprise raids on armories and through occasional snatching from the police personnel. More sophisticated arms were obtained through sources outside the country. More facts will be available when investigations are completed. There is, however, no doubt that the main distribution center of arms to the terrorist gangs was based in the Golden Temple.

According to the white paper, four distinct factors were noticeably at work in the Akali agitation in Punjab during the last 3 years. Agitations were sponsored by the Akali Dal in support of certain demands submitted to the government and on which negotiations were in progress. A stridently communal and extremist movement was launched which degenerated into open advocacy of violence and sanction for the most heinous crimes against innocent and helpless citizens and against the state. Secessionist and antinational activities were carried out with the declared objective of establishing an independent state for the Sikhs with external support. There was also involvement of criminals, smugglers, antisocial elements, and Naxalites [Marxist-Leninist faction of Communist Party of India] who took advantage of the situation for their own ends. From 4 August

1982 when the Akali morcha [movement] was started up to the 3d of last month, there were over 1,200 violent incidents in which 410 persons were killed and more than 1,180 injured. This year, up to 3 June, there were over 775 violent incidents in which 298 persons were killed and more than 525 injured.

The white paper points out that the essence of the Punjab problem is not the demands put forward by the Akali Dal in 1981, but the maturing of a secessionist and antinational movement. The paper says that the secessionist movement had the active support of a small number of groups operating from abroad. The Akali Dal leadership allowed the initiative and control over the agitation to pass out of its hands. It lacks the will to arrive at a settlement on the basis of any reasonable framework offered by the government.

Referring to the security forces' operations inside the Golden Temple complex, the paper says the troops suffered heavy casualties but showed great restraint.

Home Affairs Minister on Forces in Golden Temple

BK091651 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, has said that the security forces will move out of the Golden Temple complex as and when the task assigned to it is completed. However, even now there is no army in the parikrama [perimeter of a holy place] and inside the Golden Temple complex.

Mr Sethi told the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of his ministry in New Delhi today that weapons are still being found in the neighborhood of the temple. He said that earnest efforts are being made to see that the repairs of the Akal Takht [highest seat of the Sikhs] damaged during the Army operations to flush out the terrorists from the Golden Temple is undertaken through kar seva [voluntary community service] as early as possible.

Paying tributes to the Army, the minister said not a single shot was fired at the Harimandir Saheb [main temple of the Golden Temple].

In reply to a question, Mr Sethi said that the Army is still engaged in the task of searching weapons and mopping up terrorists in the countryside.

Responding to queries by several members about the situation in Punjab, the home minister said that the Army action had become inescapable following a spate of killings by the terrorists. These people had found sanctuary in the Golden Temple complex, which had been converted into a virtual fortress, and huge quantities of arms and ammunition [were] stored there.

Mr Sethi pointed out that terrorists had indiscriminantly killed innocent people the day the Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, and the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee president, Mr G.S. Tohra, surrendered. Terrorists, in their attempt to prevent people from coming out, had brutally attacked innocent people, killing a number of them, including women and children. Stressing the government's attempts to reach a negotiated settlement in Punjab, Mr Sethi said that no agreement could be reached with the Akalis. They always returned to the talks to resile from whatever understanding was reached, adding every time a new demand to their charter.

The minister did not admit a motion sought to be moved by Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, Bharatiya Janata Party, and supported by four others, that the governor of Jammu and Kashmir should be recalled. They alleged that the governor had violated accepted constitutional norms by refusing an opportunity to the then chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, to test his majority in the state assembly. Mr Sethi refuted the opposition members' charge that the ouster of Dr Farooq Abdullah had been predetermined and that the Jammu and Kashmir governor had been given instructions in this regard. He said the governor acted under the state constitution and had satisfied himself that Mr Ghulam Mohammad Shah had majority support.

Some members referred to the recent riots in Bhawandi, Thane, and Kalyan in Maharashtra and asked for a judicial inquiry into their causes. The minister of state for home, Mr Venkatasubbiah, described these riots as most unfortunate and said the government had taken all steps to curb them.

Opposition Leaders Protest to President Over Kashmir

BK100651 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Jul 84

[Text] Leaders of six opposition parties called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, at Rashtrapati Bhavan last evening. They protested against the dismissal of Dr Farooq Abdullah's ministry in Jammu and Kashmir. The leaders demanded the dismissal of the Ghulam Mohammad Shah ministry and holding of fresh elections in the state. The six opposition leaders were Mr Rajeshwar Rao of the CPI [Communist Party of India], Mr Chandrajit Yadev of the Janwadi Party, Mrs Ambika Soni of Congress-S, Mr Harkishen Singh Surjit of CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], Mrs Tarkeshwari Sinha of the Social Democratic Party, and Mr Brij Mohan of Congress-J.

Last Curfew in Punjab Lifted; Other Bans Continue

BK091654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] In Punjab, with the lifting of night curfew from three remaining towns of Faridkot District last evening, the state has become absolutely curfew-free. However the ban on assembly of five or more persons carrying of arms in public places, raising slogans, and taking out processions will continue to be enforced in many places.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee authorities today took over charge of gurdwara Muktsar Saheb. Over 10,000 devotees visited the gurdwara today despite heavy rains.

President Discusses Elections, New Islamic Assembly

BK101130 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 10 Jul 84

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq declared today that the future system of the government in Pakistan would be based on Shooracracy and the new national assembly would be known as Majlis-i-Shoora.

Inaugurating the 10th session of Majlis-i-Shoora [Federal Advisory Council] in Islamabad, today he said this step was based on Islamic democracy. The concept of shooraiat [consultations] has been explained in the Holy Koran, and Islam provides necessary guiding principles for the system of government. The political system experienced in the past has failed because it did not suit the genius and requirements of the people. Protagonists of the old system believed in unhealthy politics and exploitation of the people, which was opposed to Islam.

The president reiterated that under the program announced by him on 12 August last and at the public meeting in Peshawar, the process of elections would be completed by March next year. He announced that the general elections would be held under the supervision of judiciary and Armed Forces. These would be absolutely free and impartial. People have nothing to worry. The period for electioneering would be brief. The criterion for candidates would be personal quality, piety, and not political conduct, wealth, or influence. The president emphasized that all ideological contradictions in the Constitution will be removed before elections, which would be held in accordance with the Islamic shari'at [principles]. The president said that the new leadership will emerge from the present Majlis-i-Shoora, local bodies, and patriotic and Islam-loving people of Pakistan.

Referring to the law and order situation, the president said it has greatly improved but there is still room for improvement. They were committed to protect chadar and char diwari [dignity of women] and the life, honor, and property of the people.

Making a [word indistinct] reference to the demand and supply of energy, the new budget provides for additional generation of 1,500 MW of electricity in a year to year and half [sentence as heard]. New gas fields have been exploited and other sources of energy tapped. However, there was no alternative to acquisition of nuclear technology to meet the growing need of energy requirement of the country. The president again declared that Pakistan's nuclear program is purely for peaceful purposes. It was their right as a sovereign nation to acquire it.

Referring to Pakistan's foreign policy, the president said it was based on three main pillars: namely, close relations with Muslim countries, especially those of the Middle East; nonalignment; and friendship with China. He emphasized that Pakistan is the backyard of the Gulf and it has always worked hard for the unity of ummah [Islamic community]. Pakistan does not only (?believe in) nonalignment but has made every effort to make the movement a success. The president said that the PRC is not only a trusted friend of Pakistan but it has helped in making Pakistan strong. The two countries have cooperated with each other in various fields and at international forums.

Zia on Trial of Hijackers

BK091603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] The Pakistan president, General Ziaul Haq, has ruled out immediate trial of the hijackers of the Indian Airlines plane from Srinagar last week. He was speaking to the visiting Indian newsmen in Rawalpindi this evening.

Gen Zia said the trial will now create political repercussion which may come in the way of confidence building between India and his country. For the same reason, the trial of the five hijackers who had been in Pakistan's custody since 1981 was not held so far, although investigation of this case was completed. He said as there is no extradition treaty between India and Pakistan, the hijackers cannot be sent back to India. They will be tried under Pakistani law, which prescribes death punishment for hijacking.

All-India Radio's special correspondent, (Anantha Chaglu), reporting from Islamabad, says President Zia expressed confidence that a common agreement on a treaty between India and Pakistan would be worked out at an early date. He said the current visit of the minister for information and broadcasting, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, and the earlier visit of the foreign secretary, Mr Rasgotra, have been very useful.

Foreign Minister on Topics for Discussion With India

BK091447 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left for New Delhi this morning on his way to the Maldives to attend the South Asian Regional Cooperation [SARC] meeting. Talking to radio and television correspondents at the airport he said that during his flight between New Delhi and the Maldives he will have an opportunity to exchange views with Narasimha Rao. He said that he was invited by the Indian external affairs minister to accompany him on the flight to the Maldives from New Delhi. He appreciated the Indian external affairs minister's gesture of goodwill.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the organization of SARC will review the progress in cooperation in various fields and the question of a possible summit of the SARC. The summit would prove to be a major step toward advancement of cooperation. He said that several steps have been taken to implement the proposals which were agreed upon. He said that he is satisfied with the decision on issues for a practical program. In this context, Pakistan is the coordinator of the committees on communications and technology.

In reply to a question on his meeting with the Indian external affairs minister, he said that he will exchange views with Narasimha Rao on the Pakistan-India Joint Commission, a nonaggression pact, and the friendship treaty on which work is going on at official level. He said that during his flight, he will also exchange views with the Indian external affairs minister on bilateral relations. He said that he will clarify Pakistan's desire to have tension-free relations and to remove doubts and misgivings between the two countries.

Zafarul Haq Hosts Luncheon for India's Bhagat

BK091238 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 Jul 84

[Text] The information ministers of India and Pakistan have underlined the need of establishing a relationship of peace and friendship between the two countries so that both could devote their energies and resources for the well-being and prosperity of their people. The Indian information minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, agreed with Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq that mutual relations of good neighboriness would grow on the basis of respect for the principles of sovereign equality and noninterference in the internal affairs of each other.

The two ministers, speaking at a luncheon given by Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq in honor of Mr Bhagat and his delegation in Islamabad this afternoon, agreed that mutual cooperation between the two countries was essential to create a climate of amity and friendship. Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq said leaders of the two countries have shown a strong desire during the last several years to improve relations and desist from competition or taking advantage of the problems being faced by the other side. He assured that press and the electronic media of Pakistan was keen to maintain not only a responsible but sympathetic attitude in its projection of events across the border. He said such an approach was based on moral principles and [words indistinct], though it was natural to hope that similar attitude of good neighbourliness would be adopted by the other side. The information minister said that the international relations have to be based on sovereign equality and respect for the independence of each other. These principles were enshrined in the UN Charter and the Nonaligned Movement. It was necessary that no country should imposed hegemony or create pressures, he added.

Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq said his talks with the Indian information minister today demonstrated that there was sincere desire on both sides to establish goodwill and friendship. The media could play a vital role in achieving this objective. He said the Quai-de-Azam [Jinnah of Pakistan] had declared at the time of independence that Pakistan wanted model relations of friendship and cooperation with India. Unfortunately, there had been ups and downs in the bilateral relations for various reasons and the two countries could not pursue a [word indistinct] policy in this regard.

The Indian information minister, Mr Bhagat, conveyed the strong desire of Mrs Indira Gandhi and her government to promote friendly relations with Pakistan. He had said that India wanted these relations to be built on principles of equality, coexistence, and noninterference in the internal affairs of each other. He said India wanted Pakistan to be prosperous and stable, as it was in her own interest. He said they agreed that their resources should be concentrated on the economic welfare and progress of their people.

Mr Bhagat said he was happy over the positive outcome of the discussions he had with the Pakistan information minister. He said he had found in Pakistan an atmosphere of love, friendship, and sincerity. Indians, he said, want to establish good-neighbourly relations with Pakistan and to remove all obstacles in this regard. He said they had great respect for President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, as they had for their own president and prime minister.

The information secretaries of the two countries met in Islamabad later this afternoon to further discuss the follow-up arrangements in the light of the talks held between the foreign ministers of the two countries this morning.

Earlier, at their talks they expressed the need for a positive role by their respective media in preparing the climate conducive to the solution of problems.

A Pakistani spokesman at the joint meeting told newsmen that to achieve this objective a number of steps were agreed upon. These include the posting of special correspondents in each other's country. A period of 1 month was mentioned for posting of Radio Pakistan's correspondent in New Delhi and that of All-India Radio in Islamabad. It was decided that another correspondent either from news agency or newspaper should be posted in each other's country.

The spokesman said both the ministers expressed the need of monitoring the progress, and ensuring that hostile propaganda was not disseminating and quantum of information likely to create sense of friendship and amity [words indistinct]. For this purpose there would be a meeting of officials once in 3 months. It was also decided that radio and television of Pakistan and India would be exchanging programs. The Indian side announced that a group of 10 Pakistani journalists, including editors, will be invited to visit India.

The information minister of India, Mr Bhagat, called on the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi this evening and discussed matters of mutual interest. The federal minister for information and broadcasting, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, was also present.

Defense Ministry Extends Air Force Chief's Tenure

BK091606 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] A Defense Ministry press note issued in Rawalpindi today said that the government has extended the tenure of service of Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Anwar Shamim as the Air Force chief from the 22d of this month until further notice.

Briefs

Diplomatic Ties With Lesotho — Islamabad, July 4, APP — Pakistan and Lesotho have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, it was officially stated today. Pakistan's ambassador in Mozambique will be concurrently accredited as ambassador of Pakistan to Lesotho. [Text] [Karachi *DAWN* English 5 Jul 84 p 1 GF]

BANGLADESH

Indian Guards Captured After Crossing Border

BK100645 Hong Kong AFP in English 0601 GMT 10 Jul 84

[Text] Dhaka, July 10 (AFP) — Three Indian border guards and a civilian have been captured after crossing some 600 yards (540 meters) into Bangladesh and attacking a group of working farmers, a newspaper here said today. *ITTEFAQ* quoted border officials as saying the four men surrendered with their arms to Bangladesh troops in the northeastern Sylhet District yesterday. A few others fled back to India. The paper said in a report from Sylhet that border forces on both sides have been reinforced since the incident, which came a day after two Bangladeshi farmers were allegedly killed by Indian border forces nearby.

The captured men were identified as Habilder Darsan Singh, 42, and Sepoy Om Prakash, 32, of BSF 85 Battalion, Naik Enajuddin Bhuiyan, 27, of Assam Home Guard Battalion, and civilian Tahir Ali, 48, of Lafashari village across the border.

President Ershad Appoints 2 Ministers to Cabinet

BK100648 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 10 Jul 84

[Text] The president has appointed Mr Korban Ali and Professor Yusuf Ali members of the Council of Ministers. *BANGLADESH SANGBAD SANGSTHA* says earlier while joining Janadal, they expressed their total support and solidarity with the policies and programs launched by President Ershad.

Delegation To Sign Trade Protocol in Moscow

BK100753 Dhaka BSS in English 0659 GMT 10 Jul 84

[Text] Dhaka July 10 BSS -- Bangladesh trade team led by commerce secretary left here Monday evening for Moscow for signing the 13th barter protocol with the Soviet Union. The new barter protocol, expected to be for a period of six months, will be worth about 14 million dollars. Normally barters are for a period of one year. Under the barter trade, Bangladesh exports to USSR include jute and jute goods, hides and skin and tea. The imports from Soviet Union include mostly machinery, electrical equipment and industrial raw materials.

The cumulative trade turnover between Bangladesh and USSR during the last twelve years will be about 800 million dollars. The first barter protocol between the two countries was signed in 1972; the last barter protocol expired in December last year.

NEPAL

Prime Minister on Reforms, Panchayat System

BK091454 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 8 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand today told the Rashtriya Panchayat that there was ample scope for [word indistinct] in Nepal and it was in conformity with that that his majesty the king introduced reforms in the panchayat system. Winding up the discussion on the policies and programs of his majesty's government, Prime Minister Chand said his majesty the king's decision to call for national referendum and to promulgate the third constitutional amendment was inspired by a desire on his majesty's part to enable the people to enjoy more rights. Thus, it would be improper on anybody's part to claim or take credit for this historic innovation and achievement.

Thanking the members for their significant suggestions with respect to his majesty's government's policies and programs, he said that panchayat system had engraved and articulated the wishes and aspirations of the Nepali people.

The prime minister said that all Nepalese, be they from the Himalayas to the Tarai or from Methi to Mahakali, enjoyed equal opportunities under the Constitution of the land, and there would never be discrimination against anybody or any particular zone. In the decade when developing countries in different parts of the world were bedeviled by internal tension and disillusionment impeding the development process, [words indistinct] His Majesty King Mahendra introduced the panchayat system. But now the seeds sown by the late monarch has developed into a full grown tree, noted the prime minister. He said if the country's glory and prestige had [words indistinct] there was unity and peace within, and an atmosphere wherein one Nepali can cooperate with the other has been evolved. Stating that it is the prime duty of every panchayat worker to preserve this healthy and positive attitude and environment, Mr Chand described as ignorant those who have been taking about a system's alternative.

The prime minister declared that there was enough room for reforms in the panchayat system, but the same did not exist for alternative. He said reforms and alternative are two entirely different things. Mr Chand said that the panchas believe in reform, but even then there were certain fundamental principles in the panchayat system which could not be changed. Our faith in people's participation, national sovereignty, and the crown will in no circumstances be changed, as our respect, devotion, and confidence in them are deep rooted. The panchayat system provides full opportunities to all Nepalese willing to participate meaningfully in the nation-building task, he said. He said those who had entered into the system's mainstream with an open heart had been rightly welcomed by the panchas, who would continue to accord the same in the future also. Stating that the system is marching ahead with a clear objective of fulfilling the aspirations of all Nepalese, he made it clear that the panchayat system was firmly rooted but that did not mean that we should be complacent.

The prime minister, Mr Chand, said that Nepal's nonaligned foreign policy has not only created success under the leadership of his majesty the king, but has also acquired international respect for the country. The prime minister said that increasing support being received by his majesty's proposal that Nepal be declared as a zone of peace was a measure of growing international endorsement of Nepal's foreign policy.

On the allegation that the Constitution was not upheld, Mr Chand said the Constitution was fully respected and the people

allowed to exercise their rights under it, giving no room to raise any doubt. He dismissed as groundless the allegation that unconstitutional activities have taken place and demanded [as heard] that the Constitution provided for remedial measures against such activities, if any. Regarding the question of delay in implementing of decentralization program, Prime Minister Chand said time to implement the program had come at long last and arrangements were being made for putting it in effect on this task of the seventh plan.

Remarking that the possibility of mobilizing (?planned) organization for executing development program was being actively considered, the prime minister said that the notion that the Council of Ministers was divided was only a figment of imagination. He said appropriate measures were being taken up to check corruption and that more firm measures were considered for the future, adding active cooperation of people was vital for (?weeding) out corruption.

Finance Minister Presents Budget Estimates

BK100603 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 9 Jul 84

[All figures as heard]

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Dr Prakash Chandra Lohini presented the budget estimates for the fiscal year 1984-85 of 9,809,154,000 rupees at the Rashtriya Panchayat today. An allocation of 3,079,200,000 rupees have been made for regular expenditure and 6,730,000,000 rupees for development expenditure. This expenditure amount is to be incurred by 4,190,077,000 rupees from the revenue resources and 1,616,659,000 rupees from foreign aid. A budget deficit of 4,003,228,000 rupees shall be met by 2,099,698,000 rupees from foreign aid loans and 1,203,735,000 rupees from the internal loans. The proposed regular expenditure is higher by 36 percent, and development expenditure is estimated to increase by 33 percent as compared to the revised estimates of the current fiscal year.

SRI LANKA

Security Minister Comments on Terrorist Threat

BK081152 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 8 Jul 84

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has said that according to information it has been disclosed that terrorists have been attempting to create trouble during this month. He cited the recent bomb explosion in Jaffna and another attempted bomb blast in the insurance corporation building as part of this mischievous act. The minister said that the government would never hesitate to respond suitably to such violent activity. Mr Athulathmudali was addressing a public meeting at the (Bandaraigam) hospital yesterday.

He further disclosed that the terrorist strategies would provoke the people in the south. The attempted bomb blast in the insurance building, where his ministry is located, had been aimed to assassinating him and thereby provoking the people. The minister said that he was fully confident that terrorism could be wiped out from the country. He warned the terrorists that bomb blast would never change the determination to eradicate terrorism.

Referring to the establishment of the Israeli interest section, Mr Athulathmudali explained that there had been no change in the government's attitudes and policies towards the Palestinian struggle. The recent publications of Indian newspapers had pointed out that Hindi-speaking people in India and the Sinhalese in Sri Lanka were both Aryans. The Indian defense minister had also given a pledge that India would never invade Sri Lanka; however, the state government in Tamil Nadu is against us. The adverse propaganda carried out after the July disturbances is now well understood by the world.

400 Indian-Trained Terrorists Reportedly Arrested

BK091242 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] About 400 terrorists trained by Uma Maheswaran in the State of Tamil Nadu have been arrested in Sri Lanka. This was disclosed by the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, when he spoke at a seminar for schoolchildren in Dambulla yesterday.

Answering several questions raised by the students, he said that northern terrorists are now involved in drug trafficking internationally. This is how they fund their organization. The minister, while saying that the penalty for the possession of narcotics is death, added that the use of narcotics is not promoted by any economic (?feeling). He noted that the incidents of drug abuse are fast increasing in many countries, including socialist countries such as the Soviet Union. Sri Lanka is no exception.

In reply to a question about university students, Mr Athulathmudali said that they have the freedom to express their ideas without fear. This is a right not only of the students but of all citizens of this country. However, this freedom does not mean the right to burn buses and commit other acts of violence. All those who break the law will be punished, whether they be students or ordinary citizens. He added that no organization will be allowed to win over the minds of the students.

The minister also said that India has no intention of sending her army to Sri Lanka. This assurance had been given by both the Indian prime minister, Indira Gandhi, and the Indian defence minister.

Mr Athulathmudali noted that for the first time Indian newspapers had highlighted the relationship between the Sinhala people and the Hindus in India. It is only the State of Tamil Nadu which is opposed to us.

Khamene'i: U.S. Trying To 'Bully' Gulf Countries

LD091728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1638 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] Participants in a seminar of supervisors of the political-ideological offices and various units of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran met and conferred this morning with Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and head of the Supreme Defense Council.

At this meeting, the head of the political-ideological office of the Navy reported on objectives of the seminar and the way in which it is being conducted.

The president, referring to the importance of such seminars and reminding those present that one of the policies of the former regime was to separate the Armed Forces from the current realities of the society, added: Among the realities of our society were religious motives, poverty, and dissatisfaction of the people, and most important of all the political, economic, and cultural domination by foreigners. The Armed Forces were kept apart from these realities.

Continuing his speech, Mr Khamene'i referred to the obvious aggression by the world-devouring United States against the rights of the Persian Gulf region countries, saying: The fact that the U.S. fleet has launched an aggression against the Persian Gulf region and has declared an exclusionary zone is indicative of a colonialist culture. We cannot accept or tolerate it. The sea is our sphere of operation to protect the borders of our country. Should we tolerate a force which claims to have come to this region to protect its own interests, but which has come here from the other side of the world in order to bully us? All the countries of the Persian Gulf region should agree, and should not allow anyone to bully them and exert pressure on them.

The head of the Supreme Defense Council finally emphasized the importance for all those who are serving at military organizations to obey discipline and military traditions. He stressed the need to make maximum use of the facilities available, and to repair and maintain them. He said: The attitude of the politico-ideological officials in military organizations should be that of a father toward his children. A classroom filled with kindness and spiritual attraction is a worthy one.

Foreign Minister Velayati To Visit Syria 'Shortly'

LD091539 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA — Minister of the foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, will pay an official visit to Syrian Arab Republic shortly, according to Monday's issue of Arabic *KEYHAN*, published here.

The expansion of mutual relations and means and ways to counter the imperialists' plots in the region would be discussed between Dr. Velayati and Syrian officials, said the newspaper.

Meanwhile a Foreign Ministry official said in this relation that Dr. Velayati will hold talks with high-ranking Syrian officials, during his visit.

Oil Minister Departs for OPEC Talks, Urges Price Hike

LD081311 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jul 84

[Text] According to our correspondent, Petroleum Minister Mohammad Gharazi, leading an Islamic Republic delegation, left for Vienna today in order to take part in the 70th session of OPEC oil ministers. The Iranian delegation includes Abbas Honardust, under secretary for international affairs and commerce at the Petroleum Ministry; Seyyed Hasan Kheradmand, under secretary at the Petroleum Ministry; and Iran's candidate for the post of OPEC secretary-general, Shams Ardekani, as well as a number of officials dealing with OPEC affairs at the Petroleum Ministry. Before the official opening of the OPEC session, the Islamic Republic's petroleum minister is to hold private meetings with his counterparts from other member countries on issues related to the oil-exporting countries as well as to the new OPEC agenda.

It should be pointed out that the 70th session of OPEC oil ministers is to commence on Wednesday, 11 July in Vienna. Our correspondent interviewed Petroleum Minister Gharazi on the issues connected with the 70th OPEC session.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Are you going to make any specific proposal on prices, quotas, and production?

[Gharazi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As for prices, we insist on an increase from $29 to $34 and the abolition of the $5 reduction agreed upon at the London conference. It was there that it was specified and agreed that the $5 in question would apply in appropriate circumstances; thus, oil prices can be raised by this amount. This is something which the conference accepted. The question which has been frequently discussed and debated in the conference, and which is currently included on the conference agenda, is the issue of the $5 difference and its whereabouts.

Our statistics and figures indicate that in most countries this $5 has been pocketed either by companies or governments. Particularly during the past 12 months, this $5 has been completely pocketed by governments, making up for their budget deficits; that is, this amount has not found its way to the consumer. Recent reports, however, show that part of this $5 has been pocketed by some consumers in Japan or America, but that, all in all, not all of it has been made available to the consumer.

We do have certain [word indistinct] and indications which could point to the fact that the $5 in question has, in fact, been lost among banks. The thing is that it should be returned to the producer, meaning the oppressed countries. We hope to be able to drive home this logic and remove the contradiction, which advocates ever-decreasing oil prices and an increase in oil supplies. This is something which has been truly detrimental to producers during the entire history of their production. We oppose this.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that the present ceiling of 17.5 million barrels and member countries' quotas will continue to prevail as before?

[Gharazi] All indications point to maintaining the present ceiling. However, the main condition for this is for each member to adhere to its quota. We have witnessed that when market demand rises to some extent, there are those who do not stick to their quota and, by supplying more oil, harm the market. If our friends in OPEC maintain their quotas, the present ceiling of 17.5 million barrels per day will gradually contribute to a rise in oil prices, thus restoring its stable situation. [end recording]

IRNA Previews OPEC Talks

LD101005 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 10 Jul 84

["Changes in OPEC Policy Doubtful" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Vienna, July 10, IRNA — The 70th session of OPEC ministers will start here today while observers believe that the meeting will not reach any new decision.

The committee to supervise over OPEC approvals, consisting of four countries of Indonesia, Algeria, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela, Monday ended preliminary sessions for preparing annual report and the agenda for ministerial meeting.

It is said that the committee would also present a proposal to the meeting on the stabilization of present oil prices, and also on oil production level.

The committee, headed by oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, has also studied decrease in the gap between heavy and light crude prices.

Oil exports of Nigeria and UAE, mainly light crude, are facing problems due to a slight price difference with heavy crude of Saudi Arabia.

European countries and Japan are more interested in purchasing heavy crude and, therefore, are willing to keep heavy crude prices low. [as received]

Nigeria's demand to increase its oil production from 1.3 to 1.8 million barrels per day has created different conditions at unofficial circles of the meeting, some indicative of Saudi Arabia's agreement with decrease of its production for Nigeria's benefit.

Meanwhile, an OPEC expert expressed doubts over Nigeria's capability of producing 1.8 million barrels per day, adding that Nigeria had problems even in producing its 1.3 million barrels quota.

Indonesian oil minister, talking to IRNA, referred to the impacts of political issues on OPEC talks and decision-making. He added that OPEC could no more divide its political problems from economic issues, noting that most differences of opinion among members were caused by political differences.

It is said that Venezuela and Iraq have proposed their nominees for the post of OPEC secretary general.

Iran's Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi Monday stressed that Iran, under no circumstances, would forego its right to take the post. He also told IRNA here that Iran would oppose discussion of any subject concerning navigation in the Persian Gulf at Vienna meeting.

However, oil ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia might be the centre of attention for economic and news circles since the success of either of them would determine future policy of OPEC. No doubt, Western countries, the United States, and oil companies would support Saudi Arabia.

Libyan Envoy Meets With Foreign Minister Velayati

LD091133 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] This morning Mr 'Abdallah Fazil, acting chief of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah People's Bureau in Tehran, met Foreign Minister Velayati and discussed bilateral relations as well as issues of mutual interest.

Referring to provocations by the reactionary Arab leaders in connection with the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran, he said: These people have received instructions from America to fan the flames of the war, thus increasing U.S. influence in the region.

Citing the two countries' fraternal relations, Mr Velayati said: Libya and Iran are fighting imperialism from the same trench. Explaining the Islamic Republic of Iran's unwavering determination to continue its legitimate defense, he added: Our combatants' battle will continue until final victory. The Saddam regime and its supporters cannot shake our resolve by means of such adventurism and provocations.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,783

LD091704 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Communique No 1,783 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours in the Piranshah, Hajj 'Umran, and Sar Dasht operational sectors, the combatants of Islam fired on enemy supply roads and defensive positions. Our forces repelled penetration operations by enemy reconnaisance groups. Enemy losses in these sectors were 10 light and heavy weapons emplacements destroyed and 12 killed; a number of the vehicles of the mercenaries were also damaged.

On the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts our forces' fire prevented enemy engineering activities and troop deployments, and destroyed a truck carrying enemy personnel and 10 slit trenches and foxholes.

In the southern operational theater, yesterday exchanges of fire continued; fire was more intense in the Zubaydah, Zayd, Hoseyniyeh and Kushk sectors. To the west of the Arvand Rud 11 enemy trenches were destroyed.

Residential areas of Abadan came under enemy heavy weapons fire yesterday, which damaged 15 houses and 6 shops. Enemy mortar fire hit some parts of the city of Khorramshahr.

Further Details on 6 Jul Explosion in Baghdad

LD091026 Tehran IRNA in English 0903 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA — The Islamic Amal organisation of Iraq in a statement released here Sunday night claimed responsibility for the explosion at the headquarters of the People's Army in Za'farniyah region of Baghdad on July 6.

The statement, delivered to IRNA by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, said that at 04:30 hours (0100 GMT) a truck load of 100 kg [of] powerful explosives drove into the headquarters, killing and wounding a number of Iraqi commanders and NCO's.

Further elaborating [on] the explosion, the statement noted that Taha Jazrawi, commander of the so-called People's Army, was due to attend at the headquarters to see off a large number of Iraqi forces to be dispatched to fronts of the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran.

But, it said, he inclined to go to the headquarters and instead sent one of his advisors who was also among those killed in the operation.

The two-story building was completely destroyed and 15 vehicles were set on fire as a result of the explosion.

Forces Continue To Leave Cities for Battlefronts

LD091041 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] The departure of our country's committed forces to the battlefronts of the war against the Zionist enemy continues. In this connection, during the past 2 days, large groups of the self-sacrificing mobilization forces and personnel of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps from the cities of Arak, Tehran, Zanjan, Najafabad and Qom left for the war fronts against the Iraqi Zionist enemy with enthusiastic send-offs by the people of these cities.

Also during the same period, several teams of expert brothers and technicians from the cities of Tehran, Semnan and Shiraz went to the war-damaged zones of our country to carry out reconstruction work in these areas.

Prime Minister Musavi Extols Combat Readiness

LD081238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jul 84

[Text] The Cabinet held a session this morning chaired by the prime minister, Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, and reviewed current national issues and political events in the region. At the conclusion of this meeting, in an interview with our correspondent, the prime minister described the issues raised during today's session.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Musavi, would you please tell us what were the main issues raised in today's Cabinet session?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. After reviewing the news, our (?friends) Dr Manafi and Mr Behzad Nabavi presented a report on their inspection of the battlefronts, indicating the readiness of our combatants on the fronts and their very high morale. Ministers visit the front from time to time to investigate the requirements of our warriors on the front and then raise these at the Cabinet sessions. At the same time, during such visits, our brother colleagues absorb willpower from the front and become charged with [word indistinct]. (?It was the same today.) They brought very interesting reports from Khuzestan, where the temperature is high, on the battle readiness and strong will of our warriors. The messages of these warriors indicate that the government must stand firm and [word indistinct] until the start of the operations. [passage indistinct]

[Correspondent] Following the crisis created by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime in the Persian Gulf, the regional countries have recently begun purchasing some modern weapons, and the Gulf Cooperation Council has had several sessions under the guise of concern for security. Would you please explain the views of the Government of the Islamic Republic on security in the Persian Gulf and the views of the GCC member countries?

[Musavi] In the Islamic revolution we have proved one point, and that is that the power of faith and reliance on committed manpower is superior to the power of arms and weapons. If superior firepower were the cause of victory, then our nation should have lost the struggle against the shah's regime, because our people stood against tanks and artillery with their clenched fists, and the tanks and artillery were tamed by the determination of the people. The same problem exists in the international arena now. During the past year, we have noted that the world has become an arena of battle between our nation and such weapons all over the world. The arrogant powers, by relying on such weapons, including their military weapons and the propaganda power of their mass media and the so-called political and economic weapons, have tried to bring our nation to its knees. But the world has witnessed the victory of faith over such weapons; and this, in fact, is the proof of that eloquent slogan and the most beautiful example of the slogan used by the imam of the nation at the climax of the struggle of our nation — that is, the victory of blood against the sword. This is true in the region now [words indistinct]. The more weapons are piled up in the region and the more such councils hold sessions for their sinister and unholy alliance, the more certain their failure will become, because they all support [word indistinct] and the battle against justice. Our nation will (?certainly) be able to stand in its own defense and will be victorious.

To say it openly, during the past few months they have tried to isolate the Islamic revolution and [words indistinct] by such moves in the Persian Gulf as attacking ships and holding council meetings and launching extensive propaganda. Each time they thought that they might weaken the revolution, but each time we have found ourselves stronger in the face of all their moves, and

through our powerful reaction we have shown that the nation is determined to rely upon divine values and continue this battle, God willing.

An eloquent example of the nation's determination is the present situation in the Persian Gulf. If you compare the present situation in the Persian Gulf with that of 3 months ago, you will realize that despite the defense line, despite the GCC and its sessions that you have mentioned, despite the delivery of the Stinger missiles and the rest, our presence and the success of our policies have become stronger.

With every fresh trick employed by the global powers in their fight against the Islamic revolution, we, by relying on God and on our committed and creative forces, find some revolutionary solutions to neutralize those tricks, and so far we have been successful. At present, our country enjoys the best of conditions in the Persian Gulf, in the region, and in the world, and the same is true on the front; and the report of our dear brothers who visited the front contained many proofs of the power of our military forces on the front. The Cabinet found this to be very interesting. [end recording]

President Khamene'i Calls for Hajj News Agency

LD091919 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Excerpts] The joint seminar of clergymen, managers, and supervisors of hajj pilgrims continued at Azadi Stadium today with a speech by President Khamene'i.

Thanking the hajj officials for holding such a gathering, the president said: Today, the people expect to be taught by Iranian pilgrims. Those in the world who accuse our struggling and self-sacrificing Muslims of taking political advantage of the hajj do not allow their people to understand hajj properly. Of course, together with them, the mercenary propaganda mouthpieces in the service of powerful masters said what they wanted to say and ignored the clear chapters of the Koran on the benefits and advantages of hajj.

He said: Today, our people have visualised monotheism. [sentence as heard] Our nation's shouts against arrogance are: There is but one God. Our slogans are against America, against hegemony, against betrayal of the interests of mankind, against the rule of usurpers over mankind's financial and ideological wealth. This is the meaning of monotheism.

Stressing the importance of setting up a popular news agency for the hajj, he said: We want the peoples of various countries to convey their messages to each other; one way to do this is through hajj. We distrust the world news agencies and are ready to cooperate in setting up an Islamic popular new agency.

While stressing Iran's policy of neither East nor West, he said: Another topical issue is America's unprecedented efforts to strengthen its foothold. One of the places where this effort continues is the Persian Gulf region. Tell the nations that America is imposing itself on the nations in the region. They pretend that Iran has entered the scene with the intention of violating the rights of nations and countries in the region; the facts are contrary to the rumors. The rumors are spread to frighten governments in the neighborhood of the Islamic Republic. What a great pain it is to the Islamic community for some of the ringleaders of the Islamic governments to be influenced by America's policies. It makes one ashamed that they are called Muslims. American policy is confronting Iran today in the form of constant conspiracy, to force Iran to retreat in any way possible. We declare that we are confronted by America and have mobilized our forces against America.

Khomeyni Receives Mahdavi-Kani, Martyrs' Families

LD091641 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received at Jamaran Mosque here today a group of families of martyrs, POW's, and those missing, from several provincial cities.

The visitors were accompanied by the head of the Martyrs Foundation and the special representative of the imam to the foundation, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi. During the meeting Karrubi praised the devotion of the families of the martyrs, POW's, and those missing and on behalf of the imam thanked them.

The imam responded to the enthusiasm of the visitors.

Meanwhile in a separate meeting Imam Khomeyni received the secretary general of the Combatant Ulema Society of Tehran, Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani, accompanied by the executive board members of the society.

Minister Cites Increased Transport, Import Figures

LD091707 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA — Despite the destruction or limited use of facilities at the country's largest ports in the Persian Gulf because of the war, imports reached a record level in the past Iranian year.

Roads and Transport Minister Mohammad Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan said in an interview with IRNA today the number of ships waiting to unload at the ports had now reached less than 40. This had reduced demurage charges considerably.

He said 7,500 lorries had been added to the domestic transportation network and another 3,000 would be added in the next few months.

On the import figures, Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan said a record 24.5 million tons of goods were imported in the Iranian year of 1362 (March 1983-84). About 15 million tons of this had been imported through ports and 9.5 million through land routes.

He said this was 6.5 million tons more than the previous record of 1356 (March 1977-78) before the Islamic revolution. Although about 15 million tons were also imported through the ports that

year, 10.5 million of it were through Khorramshahr, Abadan and Imam Khomeyni (formerly Shahpur) ports in the Persian Gulf, he added.

The Khorramshahr and Abadan ports were destroyed early in the war in September 1980. The Imam Khomeyni port, the minister said, only handled 380,000 tons of imports in 1362 because of several problems.

In 1362 the Persian Gulf ports of Chabahar (Shahid Beheshti) unloaded 257 percent more goods compared to the previous year (March 1982-83), Bandar 'Abbas 41 percent, Bushehr 62 percent, and Imam Khomeyni 78 percent, an official of the Iranian Ports and Shipping Organization said Wednesday.

He added the Caspian Sea ports of Now Shahr showed an increase of 72 percent and Anzali (formerly Bandar Pahlavi) 4 percent.

Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan said only less than 40 ships were presently waiting to unload at the country's ports, a number of which were light weight ships.

He added that this had considerably reduced the demurage charges which Iran had to pay to ships for delays at the ports and said he was optimistic that this number could be further reduced.

On the latest import figures, he said in the first quarter of this year (March 21-June 21, 1984), 2,875,000 tons had been unloaded at ports and 2,125,000 had entered by land. This, he said, showed a 13 percent decrease compared to the same period last year but a 64 percent increase compared to two years ago.

But he said the decline in activities was not the reason for the decrease in imports in the past three months; rather, it was because transportation of general goods to various points in the country was less than metal products.

On the other hand the minister said during the same quarter a total of 5,617,000 tons of goods had been carried inside the country, of which 3,155,000 tons had been from the ports and 2,462,000 from land routes.

The total tonnage of goods carried inside the country shows an increase of 21 and 66 percent compared to the same period in 1362 and 1361 respectively. The total tonnage carried only from the ports increased 30 percent and 48 percent in 1362 and 1361 respectively.

Thus, he added, all imported goods were transported out of the ports and other border entrance routes and in addition 617,000 tons of idle goods there were transported as well.

"With this trend we hope to carry all idle goods from the ports and the border entrances to the consumer centres as soon as possible," the roads and transport minister said.

One reason for the increase in the domestic transportation activities, he said, was that 7,500 new trucks and lorries had been added to the transportation network in the past 18 months. Another new 3,000 lorries would be added in the next few months.

He said another important factor was the great efforts of the lorry drivers.

In the years after the Islamic revolution an insignificant number of lorries joined the transportation network up to 1361 (March 1982-83). He said trucks were assembled domestically but a very small number of them had a capacity above 19 tons, which were mainly used for carrying goods to and from the ports.

The present supply of spare parts was now a little better than previous years, but he expressed hope that with increased efforts of the Commerce Ministry the shortage would be removed and a maximum number of trucks could stay on the road.

On the high number of foreign lorries carrying goods to Iran, Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan said their number would decrease during the current and next years with a cut in imports and the purchase of more Iranian lorries.

Nevertheless, he said, Iranian lorries did not have an active role in the international transportation. He mentioned a number of reasons. One was as a result of the amount of foreign exchange drivers had to sell to Bank Markazi (Central Bank) upon their arrival to Iran.

He said this amount would be reduced to a desirable level soon, following talks with the bank.

Another was that Iranian lorry drivers faced numerous problems in passing through various countries. International transportation agreements had been signed with a number of countries to eliminate this problem and more agreements would be sought, he said.

Also he said talks had been held with the Commerce Ministry officials so that Iranian lorries would be given priority in carrying goods from abroad to the country.

Tudeh Party Central Committee Assails War, Regime

LD092122 (Clandestine) Radio of the Toiling People of Iran in Persian 1635 GMT 7 Jul

[Statement attributed to Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran]

[Text] The people of our homeland are victims of a devastating war which is being obstinately prolonged by the Islamic Republic leadership.

Neither the astronomical number of the dead, wounded, and disabled — reaching hundreds of thousands — which threatens the Iranian young generation, nor the existence of two million people made homeless by the war, nor the allocation of hundreds of billions of rials from the country's budget for the purchase of military equipment whose profits end up in the vaults of death merchants and Western arms-manufacturing monopolies, dis-

suade the rulers of the Islamic Republic from continuing to persist on referring to the war as a religious duty.

The continuation of the war, which has brought about massive difficulties, miseries, and destruction, helps the policy of terror and repression in the country. Mammoth military expenditures, on the one hand, and the absorption of a considerable sector of society's active force by the Army, the Revolution Guards Corps, the mobilization forces and so forth, on the other, are dealing lethal blows to the country's economy. Industry is operating at 40 percent of its capacity; the number of unemployed is increasing daily; agricultural production is on the verge of total collapse; the import of agricultural produce is increasing at a dizzying speed. Prevalent poverty is forcing millions of farmers to migrate to towns; the rate of inflation during the last year [beginning 21 March 1983] reached 40 percent.

By promoting such slogans as "War, war until victory," [second slogan indistinct], or "The war machine must be kept operational," the regime's leadership is continuing the war in an unprecedented framework. The leadership continues the war in order to conceal massive socioeconomic difficulties, hoarding, the high cost of living, shortage of provisions and [words indistinct]. The leadership advocates the continuation of the war in order to crush the revolutionary and anti-imperialist parties and organizations — the true defenders of the workers — and leave the arena to the reactionaries and imperialist lackeys. And, finally, the leadership keeps the war machinery operating so that the wheeling and dealing behind the scene with the global imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism, are kept hidden from public view.

There is no doubt that the continuation of the war serves the interests of imperialism, while being detrimental to both warring neighbors. The war provides further pretexts to U.S. imperialism to strengthen its position in the region. One must not ignore the fact that imperialism's political-military policy of applying pressure, just like the past, (?plays an important role) in altering the evolutionary social, economic, and political trend in the regional states.

Imperialism's objective in fanning the flames of war and creating hotbeds of crises and conflicts in the region is to exacerbate (?division) between the peoples of the Middle and Near East — the peoples who are struggling against imperialist domination. The objective is to conceal the devastating consequences of Israel's aggression against Lebanon, to threaten Syria's independence, and divert the public opinion in Iran and Iraq from the common enemy, imperialism and Zionism.

The concentration of the U.S. 7th Fleet as well as Britain and France's fleets in the Indian Ocean and at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz, and the declaration of the Persian Gulf as a region of vital interests to the United States threaten our homeland. Also, attempts to draw the Persian Gulf Arab states and bring them under a central command, which will embrace more than 19 countries and bring them under the umbrella of the Rapid Deployment Force, are seriously threatening our homeland.

Missile attacks on oil tankers, something which the Western media are exploiting, are bringing about the possibility of a new phase in the war between Iran and Iraq. This is something desired by Washington. The escalation of the war will contribute to a more active military presence by U.S. imperialism — this [word indistinct] enemy of the oppressed peoples — in this important and strategic oil-producing region.

According to the Western press, the scenario for military intervention by the United States in the Persian Gulf under the pretext of being invited by the region's states was prepared a long time ago.

In his recent press conference, Ronald Reagan confessed to the existence of contingency plans, saying that the United States shall not remain silent if faced with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz or threats to navigation in the Persian Gulf. The escalation of the war and its extension to other regional states coincide completely with Washington's strategy to turn the Middle East into an arena for the implementation of aggressive designs against world peace and security, as well as national liberation movements.

We have believed from the outset — and today we are totally convinced — that the existing differences between governments must be settled through political negotiations. Unfortunately, the Islamic Republic leadership has so far failed to respond positively to peace proposals by the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organization, Algeria, the USSR, most European socialist countries, as well as to proposals made by international figures. And this is happening when struggle against the continuation of the war is gaining momentum in our country.

The Iranian people demand peace, believing that it is impossible to settle the differences between the two neighboring countries militarily. An end to hostilities and the achievement of a just and stable peace will serve the interests of both countries' peoples and world peace. It is, however, detrimental to the interests of imperialism.

Therefore, it must be achieved as soon as possible. Peace is the urgent wish of the masses of millions of workers; it must be acheived.

[Signed] Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran, 14 Khordad 1363 [4 June 1984]